

Issue No. 278

Hill & Valley

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF HURSTBOURNE PRIORS, LONGPARISH, ST MARY BOURNE & WOODCOTT

£1

May 2024

*Hurstbourne Priors May Fair
Monday 6th May - 12 noon to 4pm*

Dear Friends,

This May edition of the parish magazine comes on the back of Easter joy and the hope of new life found in the risen Christ. As trees, plants and flowers have been waking up in spring, now with warmer and longer days, we anticipate summer coming and enjoying the surrounding countryside and garden spaces that God has given us to nurture and enjoy. Moving from spring to summer reminds me, what had been lying dormant is now coming to life, to blossom and will bear fruit. From a resurrection perspective, despite all the troubles of the world, we can hold onto our Lord who has conquered death, confident that Jesus has the last word over the injustice and suffering we know of too well.

May is a busy time for Christians, remembering, celebrating, and being reminded of God's power and purposes in our world. In May we remember the moment Jesus ascended into heaven (the Ascension) traditionally 40 days after Easter, and just 10 days later that we remember the time when the Holy Spirit came with great gusto overcoming the crowds at Pentecost, 50 days after Easter. In the 10 day interim, known as a 'Novena', we pray with expectancy, reliving the wait of those early Christians that the Kingdom of God would come on earth as in Heaven. Jesus Christ was gone, but He promised to send the Holy Spirit to help us and be our guide, so Christians rededicate their dependency on God during this time.

Before Jesus ascended he commanded his followers to go and tell the good news to those who would listen; that same command remains for us today, with proclamation is the call to live and to 'be' the good news and demonstrate God's love. I leave you with a sonnet for Ascension Day by Malcom Guite.

David

The Revd David Roche

Vicar

**We saw his light break through the cloud of glory
Whilst we were rooted still in time and place
As earth became a part of Heaven's story
And heaven opened to his human face.
We saw him go and yet we were not parted
He took us with him to the heart of things
The heart that broke for all the broken-hearted
Is whole and Heaven-centred now, and sings,
Sings in the strength that rises out of weakness,
Sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight,
Whilst we ourselves become his clouds of witness
And sing the waning darkness into light,
His light in us, and ours in him concealed,
Which all creation waits to see revealed.**

Malcolm Guite

The theme of the Ascension has inspired artists throughout the years. The pictures have always found ways to show Christ ascending to the heavenly realm to join his Father with the Blessed Virgin Mary and the angels welcoming him. From the earthly realm the disciples look up in wonder and worship.

One of my favourites is that by Salvador Dali, where we are looking from the point of view of the disciples, with Christ disappearing into Heaven.

RS



May 2024

All Zoom details are available from the Church wardens or Dodie Marsden.

Sunday 5th - Easter 6

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	Morning Prayer
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	Holy Communion

Home Zoom Service at 10.30am

Wednesday 8th

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.30am	Holy Communion
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Sunday 12th - Ascension Sunday

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	6.00pm	Benefice Evensong
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Morning Prayer
St James', Woodcott		No Service

Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online

Sunday 19th - Pentecost Sunday

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30pm	Holy Communion
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Morning Prayer
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Family Service
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	Matins

Home Zoom Service at 10.30am

Sunday 26th - Trinity Sunday

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	Family Praise
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Family Praise
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Benefice Evensong

St James', Woodcott No service

Home Zoom Service at 10.30am



Photo: Tom Bremridge

For all enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals in any of the parish churches, please contact the Church Office Administrator: ☎ 01256 893573 brightwatersbenefice@gmail.com

Rev David Roche: ☎ 01256 892535 revd.davidroche@hotmail.com

Rev Canon Dodie Marsden: ☎ 01264 738211 dodie.marsden@gmail.com

• For details of **Roman Catholic Services** in Whitchurch or Andover: ☎ 01264 352829

• **Methodist Minister** for our parishes: The Revd Rachel Borgars, 11 Lapwing Rise, Whitchurch, RG28 7SU ☎ 01256 895878 or rachel.borgars@methodist.org.uk

From the Church Registers

Baptisms

"Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father."

Theodore Philip Simon Kennedy

St Peter's, SMB – 7/4/24

Primrose Hughes-Riley

St Peter's, SMB – 20/4/24

Savannah Hughes-Riley

St Peter's, SMB – 20/4/24

Hazel Roberta Rose Brierly

St Nicholas', LPH – 20/4/24

Henry Patrick Hendersen Grieve

St Peter's, SMB – 27/4/24

Flora Aimee Honor Docherty

St Andrew's, HBP – 28/4/24

Julia Margot Sylvia Docherty

St Andrew's, HBP – 28/4/24

Weddings

"Marriage is a gift of God in creation ..."

Ellen Blundell and Jamie Tugwell

St Nicholas', LPH – 12/4/24

Funerals

"Into God's loving care we commit you ..."

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of

Rebecca Condie

St Nicholas, LPH – 4/4/24

Melanie Nixon

St Peter, SMB – 10/4/24

Anthony (Monty) Dobson

Charlton Park Crematorium – 17/4/24

LET US PRAY - If you would like us to pray for you or someone else, please email stnbrightwaters@icloud.com giving the name (no surname required) and include a reason if you wish, or contact a member of the local ministry team.



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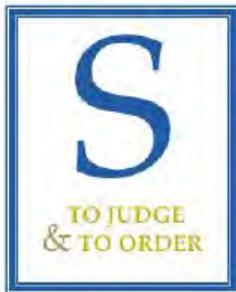
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Continuing our trip up the B3048, Highway to the North - Part 3

Confusingly, Middleton was once both the name of the whole ambling parish and that of the main farmstead / settlement of the four Longparish '-tons'. Soon after passing Forton, Middleton House becomes visible, in its parkland on the rising ground to the left, the first of the great houses along this route. It and its 18th century predecessor buildings were the residence of members of the Widmore 'lords of the manor' and their trustees from 1698-1912, and the Wills family from 1926 to date, owners of the Middleton Estate.

Soon come the first signs of community provision: on the left, the cemetery of 1884, on land given by the Widmores, needed because the churchyard was full; the War Memorial stands in the cemetery; then, Longparish Village Hall of 1910, attractively modernised. To the right after the bends stands the primary school of 1837, with its integral pre-school and school/community hall of 2005: beyond it is St Nicholas' church, dating from the 1100s (the priest's doorway in the chancel south wall). It is well-known that the long-serving vicar of the 19th century, Henry Burnaby Greene, diverted the main road to give his vicarage (now Woodbury House) a front garden, softening two right-angled turns—though more than a few others are still to come along the B3048.

But it is the sheer, random variety of the houses along the street which catches the eye, as in other villages. Thatched cottages, often conversions from two or three to the present one; detached houses; houses opening straight onto the winding road; bungalows; styles intermingling from the 17th to 21st centuries. It developed *ad hoc*, rather than by design, under the gradually tightening building controls from early last century. Most modern houses replace older buildings, work- or retail shops, dilapidated cottages etc. In this mix, the community-owned Plough Inn is an achievement.

Middleton ends, and the road, now bounded by fields, is accompanied by a stream on its left past two relics of 19th century paternalism, the public grindstone and Ash Burn Rest, a well and benches of 1868. To the right is the proud cricket field and play area (both courtesy of the Middleton Estate). Then comes West Aston (probably 'ash tree-settlement'), the home of the majority of the population. While council housing of 1936-74 was well-built with good-sized gardens, perhaps because of land-ownership and the convenience of building designed estates, they are usually off the historic village main drag. And of course, many council houses are now privately owned. Such is North Acre, though blessed to have easy access to the only shop in the parish—indeed the only shop now actually fronting onto the whole B3048—and the newly-lamented Cricketers Inn.

Almost in sight now is Longparish House. But that's for next month...

MC



Please join us for the next Friday Lunch Club **12-2pm**

May 31st

£3 for hot soup and freshly baked cake.

A chance for conversation and meet up with Longparish folk. Open to anyone of any age but please book for catering purposes.

To book lunch and or transport ring **Andrea 720 457**



The Greening Campaign has focused on three pillars: making space for nature, making homes warmer and more energy efficient and health and wellbeing.

To see what Greening Longparish has been doing over the last year see the report online from the Annual Parish Meeting.

We are a small steering group who are passionate about doing a little bit to tackle climate change and welcome anyone interested in helping with events, coming up with ideas following the principles of the Greening Campaign.

Alongside the Greening Campaign, we are interested in how to support the electric vehicle transition and how to reduce waste, reuse, and recycle – all ideas welcome, get involved!

SPRING INTO ACTION

Build a mini pond in your garden for the how, go to www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-create-mini-pond



Give your lawnmower a rest for a month and see what appears. For more information

<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay>

Spring Tidy Up – Save the Date!



Saturday, 11th of May at 2pm

Starting at 2pm – meet at the play park followed by refreshments at the Plough from 5pm.

Activities to include stream clearing, clearing paths, litter picking, tidying bus shelters and other village open spaces and facilities.

Volunteers are welcome on the day, but if you are able let Jo Clare know beforehand, it would help to plan the day. joannelclare@gmail.com

LONGPARISH WILDLIFE GOOSANDER

I have a new bird for the village; a Goosander that takes my total of different birds seen in the village to 133.

This Goosander has been around most of the winter but has been evading me until it appeared at the Trout Farm’s lake one morning. Goosanders are about the same size as a Mallard. The male has a dark green head (it looks black from a distance) white breast, sides and underneath, black back with a grey stripe running down to its tail, red beak and feet. They breed mostly in Scotland in late April-early May. They will nest in large nest boxes and holes in trees sometimes high up and the young will jump out and bounce on the ground unharmed. Only a few downy feathers line the nest, 8-11 eggs are laid and incubated for 30-32 days and leave the nest soon after being born. They will stay with the parents for 60-70 days before fledging. Their main food is fish which it will pursue at speed using its webbed feet for propulsion.

All the wet weather we have been having seems to have slowed the arrival of the summer migrants, as of writing this on April 16th, I have seen a few **Swallows**. I spotted the first on the 7th of April, which is 6 days later than last year. I haven’t seen a **House Martin** yet. I saw my first baby **Blackbird** today. A few birds are feeding young; **Rooks, Robins, Little Grebe** and **Greylag** have babies and the **Swan** is back on her usual nest.



Picture is male and female Goosander.

Chris Bowman

LONGPARISH PARISH COUNCIL

Would you like to be a Parish Councillor?

The Parish Council currently has three vacancies, and anyone interested in becoming a councillor should contact the clerk for more information. We welcome anyone with open arms who wants to get stuck into projects, is willing to join working parties, produce reports, monitor and research, with the aim of making a difference for the good of community.

These roles are more than just attending the monthly PC meetings.

The Parish Council is seeking a new Clerk to replace Sally, who will be leaving at the end of August. Anyone interested in this paid position, please contact clerk@longparish.org.uk

LCA - L2SOTM - The Longparish Second Sunday of the Month handicap race

The weather was dry for the April race but, like Noah, we were still waiting for the waters to recede; it was more than ankle deep at The Cleeves so all the runners got wet feet.

We welcomed new runners Alexander and Henry Kidd who were accompanied by their parents Camilla and Andy. We also welcomed back old hands Alice Evans, Lee Gregory and Karl Gailer.

Alexander led from start to finish to become our Rising Star. Second home was Forton’s Dave Henery who was Most Improved Man and Alice was Most Improved Woman. Well done all.



Afterwards the runners enjoyed chocolate biscuits with grapes for those who preferred the healthy option. While we were enjoying the refreshments who should rock up by Chris Edwards who had not noticed that the start time was 9am! Better luck next month, Chris.

Thank you very much to Maggie Barber for marshalling, Andy Smith for doing the signs and David Gould for processing the results. Thanks also to the Cricket Club for the lovely venue.

The next race is on **Sunday, 12 May** starting at **9am** at the Cricket Ground. New runners are always welcome, and you don’t have to be fast. It’s a handicap race so everyone, whatever their pace, has a chance of winning.

Please do give me a call or drop me an email if you’d like to join us. For more information, please see <http://l2sotm.longparish.org.uk/index.php> Jeremy Barber 01264 720459 mrjeremybarber@gmail.com

Mary Jo and Graham Leave Longparish after 64 years!



On Sunday 24th March Christine Beresford organised a wonderful tea party in the Village Hall to say goodbye to Mary Jo and Graham Darrah who have been in the same house in the village for 64 years. They are moving to a flat in Winchester, close to their daughter. 70 people attended, many of whom contributed to a sumptuous tea. Jeremy Barber, having done some careful research, gave an excellent speech.

Graham and Mary Jo met while undergraduates at Oxford. Mary Jo read history and Graham was on his second degree course reading forestry after natural sciences at Cambridge. After graduation in 1957 and a year in Norfolk, Graham was appointed a District Organiser for the South Western Woodlands Association. Colonel Dawnay, owner of Longparish House, and one of his first clients, offered him temporary(!) use of Saddlers Cottage which became their home when he married Mary Jo in 1959. There they brought up 4 children.

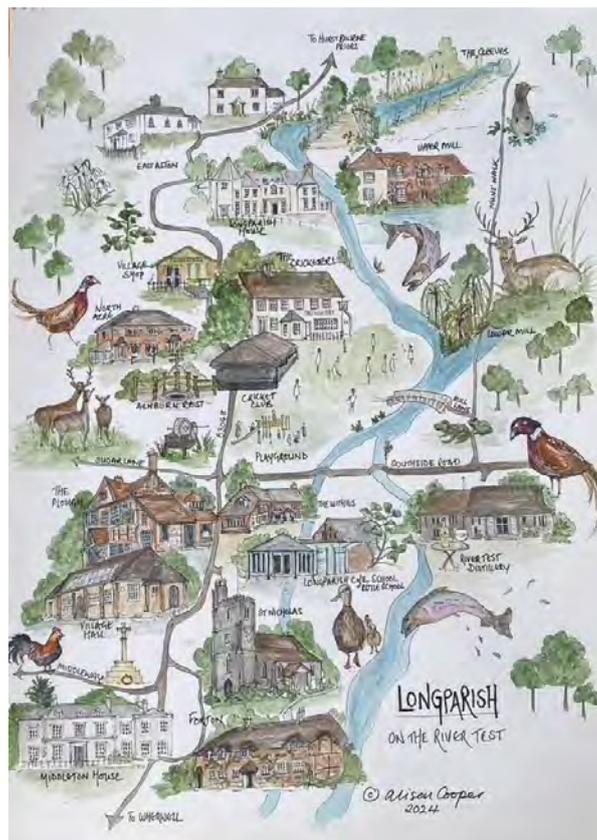
Their contribution to the local community and particularly the village has been amazing. Graham was school governor of their childrens' schools, Testbourne and Cricklade. He joined the Council of Hampshire Wildlife Trust soon after its creation and was subsequently Chairman for many years. He was a trustee of Bentley Wood, a nature conservation charity. In 2004 he was awarded the MBE for services to conservation in Hampshire. Mary Jo's achievements have been tireless and remarkable including these and many more:

- Parish Council member 34 years, chair 14 years
- Founder/creator of the parish playground
- Governor Longparish School 25 years, chair for 3.
- Member of steering group for new community hall, classrooms and Little School
- Joint creator of Friends of Longparish School (FoLS)
- Helped to start the Longparish Playgroup in 1970
- Jointly created Hill and Valley, many years as editor
- Researcher for registration of village Common Land
- Founder member village book group
- Head of History, Peter Symonds College Winchester

We raised a glass to them and gave thanks for their friendship and for enriching the lives of so many Longparish villagers and their children.

Tom Bremridge

This illustrated map of the village was originally created as a print for Mary-Jo and Graham Darrah when they left the village. I still have the original and have decided to produce further prints to sell.



The prints are **£35** (A3, unframed) with £10 from each one going to the school for their outside classroom project. If you would like a print, please email me on alisoncoops@hotmail.com or call Alison Cooper on 720324.

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Sunday 19 May**

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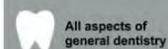


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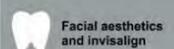
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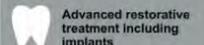
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Friends of Longparish School

The Longparish Run, Sunday 19 May:

It's not too late to register for the Longparish Run! Join us on a 10k, 5k or 3k route around the village. Register at www.pta-events.co.uk/longparish before 18 May. All are welcome to join us on the football field to cheer on the runners crossing the finish line. Refreshments available.

Summer Fayre, Saturday 8 June, 12pm-4pm:

We are in the final few weeks of planning this year's Fayre. Thank you to everyone that donated to our collection for the Bottle Tombola last month – we very much appreciate your support. On the weekend of the Fayre, can you help with:

- + Baking a cake for the refreshments stall?
- + Donating items for the Plant and Produce Stall (outdoor plants, houseplants, homemade jams and chutneys etc)
- + Donating second-hand books, toys and children's clothes.

And if you can lend a hand on the day, please sign up at volunteersignup.org/JRWJP (we will also need lots of help setting up and taking down gazebos over the weekend). Thank you.

More information:

Website: www.pta-events.co.uk/longparish
 Facebook: fb.me/FriendsofLongparishSchool
 Instagram: [@friendsoflongparishschool](https://www.instagram.com/friendsoflongparishschool)

Jo Allam, Chair (chairfols@gmail.com)



Congratulations to Longparish Indoor teams for their success in the Winter Indoor Leagues at Dummer Cricket Centre. Longparish were crowned champions in both the Tuesday evening and Thursday evening leagues. The Thursday evening team only lost one match all winter and are mainly U18 in age which bodes well for the future of the Club.



Victorious Thursday evening team

We are hoping for similar success at both junior and senior level in the outdoor season which started in April with League games beginning in early May.

Allstars cricket for children aged 5-8 starts on Monday, **13th of May 2024**, sign up via the ECB website.



The ball stop net between the cricket ground and the play park has now been erected and the Club would like to thank all the volunteers for their hard work to achieve this. Thank you to the Parish Council, Vitacress, Cllr David Drew and Test Valley BC for their grants which went toward the funding of the net.

Many thanks also go to all who helped clean the pavilion and prepare the ground for the new season over a couple of weekends in April.

The date for your diary event for Longparish CC this season is



the John Woodcock cup match, village cricket day which is being held on **Sunday, 30th of June 2024**. Activities planned include children's cricket, a silent auction and raffle, Pimm's bar and BBQ. The afternoon highlight will be the Village v Club cricket match for the John Woodcock cup. It's a great day out for everyone so please come along and support your village club.

Alison Allen



The Cricketers Inn

Pauline Dale reports that the Village have been very generous in their response to her appeal for a leaving present for Matt. £516.50 was donated. Pauline has purchased a teak bench and barbecue for him. These will be presented in May when he visits. Date to be notified. Pauline is most grateful to all who contributed.



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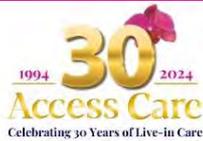
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Remembering ‘Ella’ Isobella Gibson Scott

18th November 1927 – 1st March 1924



Ella was born in Scotland on the 18th of November 1927. She was the eldest of 6 children, two of whom died in infancy.

She lived and was brought up in Galloway, mainly living in the Grange of Cree farm and then in Polwhilly when she married her husband, Tom Scott.

As a farmer’s wife, she was a very hardworking lady. Harvest times were particularly busy when all the family went to the fields laden with baskets of scones, pancakes, ‘tattie’ scones and huge tins of tea. At lambing time, the Rayburn in the kitchen always contained a newborn lamb or two in the bottom oven that needed to be fed several times a day (and night!).

Ella and Tom had three children, Isobel, Mabel and John and when they were teenagers the family moved south to Kimmer Farm, Facombe in Hampshire and all her grandchildren can remember wonderful, free holidays there surrounded by farm animals plus chickens, turkeys and dogs.

In 1978 they moved to Sussex for a short time before coming to Longparish to retire in 1984. Tom died in 2000.

Ella loved her family, her neighbours and community. In short, she loved everyone she met and got to know, and there were plenty that felt that love.

She also loved nature, gardens & gardening as well as crafts and animals and her passion was contagious.

Sharing was in Ella’s nature and there are many gardens in Longparish that contain plants that Ella shared, like marsh orchid plants. Walking around Longparish in late spring you can recognise them popping up in gardens across the village. I am sure there are many other plants throughout Longparish that Ella shared.

She also loved crafts & knitting, creating blankets for newborns and crafting all sorts, always sharing her wares & skills for the greater need.

Ella’s other passion was cooking, and baking was her forte, always sharing her scones, cakes, sweet treats with family, friends & neighbours. Ella had quite the sweet tooth herself. Her signature dish was always her shortbread. This was sweet, full of love & passion, made for the joys of sharing. It was also unique.

Ella never forgot her roots and was in constant contact with her wider family by letter, plus frequent visits to relatives in Galloway. She would love to talk about her beloved Scotland and her life there. From breeding a particular breed of Turkish Chicken that she loved to raise, to taking in refugees during wartime. There were so many stories and she spoke so fondly of the people she welcomed.

Ella loved a ‘Gathering’ be it a tea party, bar-b-que, picnic or just a house visit, and she was never happier than when she was with her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She made friends wherever she lived or visited and loved being involved with the Longparish Community, the Church, and other village activities which meant so much to her.

Ella – Sadly missed by her Family and friends.

Roger Henry



St Nicholas 100 Club

Results of the March Draw 2024

Many thanks again to all those who have signed up to the scheme. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

We had 1 new member join in March, making the total members of the scheme up to 58. **Please think about joining the scheme to help preserve the fabric of your church.**

Prizes are allocated on a percentage basis. First prize is 25% of the total income for the month, second prize 15% and third prize 5%. The draw was made on the 28th February 2024.

First prize:	No. 04	£73.00
Second prize:	No. 51	£43.00
Third Prize:	No. 12	£15.00

We would like to get up to a minimum of 100 numbers/members (Clue is in the name!). You can join at any time, and it works like this: Membership is set at £5.00 per number per month. There is no limit to the numbers you can purchase. If you would like to join, you may well have the letter and application form still at home, but if you require another one, please let me know:

Or, if you have any other queries, please contact:
 John Young, PCC Stewardship Officer, St. Nicholas 100 Club
 Tel: 01264 720233
 Mob: 07860 630489 or
 Email: jayoung1322@gmail.com

P.S. If you’re interested to learn more about the finances of the church and how it is funded etc., I would be very happy to have a conversation with you any time. Please give me a call.



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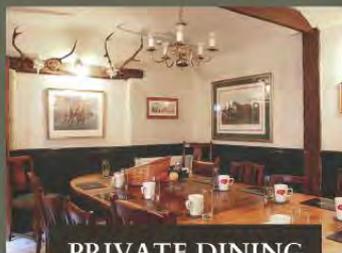
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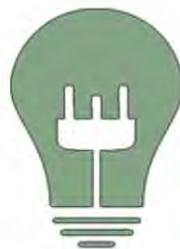


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Longparish Little School

We've been out a few times in March and enjoyed a lovely day at Hillier Gardens. We went pond dipping and discovered newts, water worms,

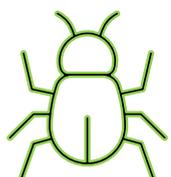
dragonfly larvae, and pond skaters. We also built nests for birds, searched for bugs under logs, and noticed signs of spring approaching. We were also thrilled to attend the opening of the bug hotel we created with Robin's class. It's now situated permanently in the village play park. We are looking forward to seeing if any bugs move in. The children then had a fantastic time exploring the play equipment in the park.



We have also started a gardening club with Robins, planting seeds so the children can learn all about how fruit and vegetables are grown and how flowers can attract different wildlife. If you have any flowerpots or some spare seeds that you could donate, we would love to have them. We have been very busy feeding the birds and hope to have birds nesting soon in our camera nesting box.



If you would like to see some photos of all the exciting this we do at Little School you can go to our website www.longparishlittleschool.org.uk, our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/longparishplaygroup>



Patron: Professor David Owen Norris MA (Oxon) FSA FRAM FRCO

Friday 17th May, 2024 at 7.30pm

St Peter's Church, Stockbridge



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Save the Date for the Village Fete



The Village Fete Needs You!

The village fete needs your ideas, support, and commitment. We have convened a new committee to help elevate our fete, but a fete is more than a small group of people. The village fete is a community event that raises funds for the village, the church, and the local community.

This year's fete is scheduled for **September 7th, 2024.**

- We need **Fresh Ideas**
- **Volunteers** to help run stalls
- **Stall Sponsors** – donate to sponsor a stall
- **Outside Vendors** – New and returning vendors
- **Grand Draw Prizes and Silent Auction Items** (Art, jewellery, experience packages etc)
- **Donations** for the stalls such as cakes, produce, books, toys, clothes, etc

Can you help? Email us! Fete@longparish.org.uk

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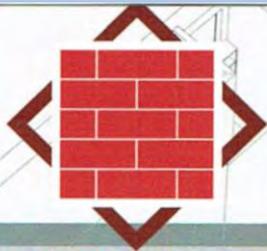
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WEATHER: APRIL 2024

Total rainfall for this month	125mm/4.92in
Total for 2024 (to date)	369mm/14.52in
Total for 2023	289mm/11.37in
Max temp	17°C/62f(18 th)
Min temp	-2°C/28f(4 th)

Despite all the floods, we had less rainfall this March than in March last year. Total rainfall for this year so far more than three inches up on last year!

John Smail

THE MAY FAIR 2024

Hurstbourne Priors May Fair

Monday 6th May, from 12 noon to 4pm



Fun for all the Family

**Circus workshop – Live Beatles music –
Maypole dancing – Bouncy Castle**

**Children's Games – Pony Rides – Beekeepers –
Model Railway – Craft stalls**

**and all our usual Village Stalls, BBQ, Hog Roast,
Pub in the Park, Ice-cream and Teas!**

LADIES COFFEE MORNING

Our May Coffee Morning will be held by Annabel Nicholson at No. 48/49, The Long House, on **Wednesday, 22nd May from 10.15am to 12 noon**. All ages welcome!

For more information or for offers to hold a coffee morning, please contact Susie Sorby (tel. 892665 or email: sbsorby@hotmail.com)



MIDSUMMER FUN DAY

In Aid of St Andrews Church, Hurstbourne Priors

Sunday 23rd June 2.30-5.30pm

Tea, Toys, Maze in a Children's Play Garden

Junior and Senior Tennis competition

Pre-booked Indoor Swimming

Afternoon Tea, Croquet and Pimms

Tropical Goldfish Pool

To book your tennis or swimming slot, contact Ann Orr: annjorr@btinternet.com before 16th June

Families £25, or £10 per adult and £5 per child, to include all activities and tea

Pimms and other alcohol on sale



PARISH COUNCIL DATES FOR 2024

Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council meets every other month at 6.30pm in the Village Hall. All residents of the Parish can attend. If you would like to bring something to the attention of your Parish Council you are welcome to come along. If it is something that may need a bit of looking into, or research, do contact the Parish Clerk, Richard Waterman (please email: richard.waterman150@btinternet.com) and he will circulate relevant information to the Councillors.

The remaining dates for meetings for this year are:

29th May

31st July

25th September

27th November

Parish Clerk

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HBP CRICKET CLUB

Hurstbourne Priors



Cricket Club

At some point, hopefully before the start of May, the incessant rain will ease and the sun will bring warmth. And not soon enough, as the club is eager to build on the successes of last year. The

culmination of summer 2023 was a battle for the Hampshire NE Division 6 title, decided in the last match of the season against worthy title contenders Twyford CC. We won. The end.

Silverware proclaiming our Champion status now adorns our mantelpieces and downstairs loos, distributed during a charming awards ceremony at the Rose Bowl in the depths of winter.

As the season begins, it is worth re-emphasising that new players, of all abilities, are welcome. Practice nets are every Wednesday at the village recreation ground, starting at around 6pm – feel free to come along and have a bowl. Alternatively, please get in touch with the Club Secretary, Steve Cady (cadysteve@hotmail.com) for more information. Building on the unexpectedly high club subscriptions last summer, we are planning to schedule more Sunday friendly matches and a charity match in addition to our Saturday league fixtures and midweek T20s – for all these the pavilion bar (fridge) is open and serves alcoholic and non-alcoholic refreshments so please come along, have a drink, and watch some local heroics. Finally, we are *always* on the lookout for umpires and scorers.

Respectful of the village's regular fundraising campaigns, we're quietly raising money to purchase essential equipment and improve the cricketing infrastructure of the ground, all of which helps maintain a wonderful community asset and improves the ground's ability to attract travelling team hires. Please contact Mat Johnson (matjohnson@hotmail.co.uk) if you would like to contribute to our efforts. Whilst on the subject, we'd like to thank Precelly and William Murray for the gift of a sit-on mower and roller which is already being put to good use. We are also very proud to announce that Phillips Law (www.phillips-law.co.uk) in Basingstoke remains our kit sponsors

for the 2024 season – thank you, Max Hope (club member and solicitor extraordinaire), for your continued generosity.

By the time you read this, you will have seen us supporting Hurstbourne Prior's May Fair BBQ stand and coconut shy, as we do every year. It is an honour to have the opportunity to develop our links with the village. On that note, we'd like to thank Nick Read for continuing as honorary club president. We look forward to a President's XI vs HPCC match later in the summer (that should get bums on seats!).

A final request of our dear readers: the cricket net by the pavilion is now set up for the season; it is there for everyone to use, but it is designed for cricket balls only so please do not use it as a football goal or backstop as it *will* rip. Please also ask your young ones to refrain from climbing or hanging on the net. There are some wonderful trees about the place that offer superior options and greater challenge. Thank you.

MRJ



WHITCHURCH RAMBLING CLUB

On Monday evenings between now and September (except bank holidays) the Whitchurch Rambling Club meets at 7pm at the Bell Street car park in Whitchurch and sets off for a walk, either within the environs of Whitchurch or further afield with a drive to the starting point. The 2024 walk programme will soon be available at www.whitchurchramblers.org.uk.

We're a friendly bunch of people of all ages and ability and we ramble rather than stride. Membership is £2 for the season. Dogs are welcome. If you're interested in keeping fit while enjoying the beautiful Hampshire countryside why not join us?

SUMMER EVENTS AT THE SILK MILL

Did you see the mill on ITV News in March?

ITV News came to the Mill to film for a feature on ribbon-making, showing some of the techniques involved in this endangered craft, and interviews with Weaver/Tackler Shannon Bye and Mill Director Sue Tapliss. The six-minute feature was broadcast on 11 March, and it's already been evident that the Mill's profile has been raised as a result. The full clip is on ITVX We have a new screen in the Welcome Building which has been showing footage of ribbon weaving and production, and will feature other techniques too, and we hope that seeing the working inside the Mill will encourage more café users to cross the threshold into the Mill building and see our fascinating historic machinery and many information panels.

National Mills Weekend 2024, 11th–12th May, 10.30am–5pm

In celebration of the engineers and millwrights who built and now restore and maintain Whitchurch Silk Mill, Nigel Spender of G & H Spender Engineering, a historic Basingstoke company specialising in industrial heritage conservation and restoration, will be here to talk to visitors about the many crafts used during his company's recent conservation of the Mill's Grade Two* listed Georgian waterwheel, and the historic craft of millwrighting. Included with admission fee or annual pass.

10,000 Years of Textiles, 15th May, 7–8.30pm

In this illustrated talk Angela Pawlyn, a member of the Oxford and Kennet Valley Guilds of Weavers Spinners and Dyers, will show examples of preserved textiles. Weaving spindles and loom weights can survive for thousands of years, but it's rare for textiles to last that long. Most of what we know about ancient weaving is in the form of pictorial evidence. Angela will explain how ancient equipment evolved into the looms seen today at the Mill. Tickets £15. Doors open at 6.30pm and tea and coffee will be available for a donation.

Children's Workshop: Make a Mini Maypole, 29th May, 11am–1pm

Book your places to drop in between 11am–1pm with your children and help make a mini version of

a Maypole. Cost £3 per child aged 3 to 16 years. Each child can be accompanied by one adult free of charge. Book via our website.

Current Exhibition: Thailand, Colour of Culture, 4th May–23rd June

In partnership with the National Research Council of Thailand and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and innovation (Thailand), this exhibition showcases the diversity of Thai hill tribe folk art. Thai hill tribe communities are renowned for their unique identity and exceptional expertise in weaving textiles.

Weftival Textiles Festival, 5th–6th July

Join us for our second Weftival event at which you can meet a community of textile and weaving professionals and learn about diverse types of weaving and textiles. There will be talks, demonstrations, production tours, a weaving exhibition and pre-bookable workshops.

The programme features the following:

Friday 5th

- a talk by Janet Philips, handweaver, fabric designer and author
- a chance to meet and talk to the production skills manager from Coldharbour Mill, one of the oldest woollen mills in the country
- 'All Things Rafia' workshop

Saturday 6th

- a 'small craft' fair, showcasing the work of small crafts makers, with a chance to talk to them about their methods and purchase their wares
- children's craft area for those 10 and under
- workshops by Tabby and Tweed and Elka Textiles

Both days

- workshops and demonstrations by Silkewoman, our own weavers, and the Kennet Valley Guild
- a production tour of the weaving floor (must be booked in advance)
- a weaving exhibition

Contact: info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk – www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk – 01256 892065.

Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram or subscribe to our email newsletter via our website.

ST ANDREWS WILDFLOWER MEADOW



The churchyard is a haven for wildlife: snowdrops and primroses flourish there during the early months of the year. The PCC are doing our bit to encourage flora and fauna by creating a wildflower meadow in the grassy area between the yew tree and the Recreation Ground. The grass in this area will be allowed to grow and we hope that flowers whose seeds have been dormant in the ground will spring to life over the summer, and the churchyard will become a destination for butterflies, bees and insects.



ANDOVER TREES: DIAMOND WOOD

The Diamond Wood was formed in 2012 as part of the late Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Sixty, 60-acre woodlands were created across the country and Andover's Diamond Wood forms 44 acres of the Hampshire 60. Andover Trees United, a community organisation focusing on environmental conservation education and the originator of the Diamond Wood project, was initially allocated 12 acres to plant and manage as community woodland. Over ten years 2012-2022, the group supported 10,000 children from local schools to plant what is now known as 'Harmony Woods' with 10,000 trees.

Hampshire County Council contracted out the rest of the planting, with ATU looking after it from then onwards.

By the end of 2022, the lease to manage the whole site had been transferred to Andover Trees United, along with the corresponding England Woodland Grant Scheme Funds. This will allow the Charity to bring much needed improvements and aid responsible access to the wood in the form of waymarked paths and information boards.

Happy Earth Day!

Earth Day is an international annual event on April 22nd to demonstrate support for environmental protection. This year, ATU is excited to announce that they are working with National Geographic on the long overdue upgrade to the Diamond Wood! The team will be working together with ATU's regular Volunteer Conservation Team to put in sign posts to help visitors know which permissive paths to use. This will help to reduce the soil erosion that is taking place at the bottom (eastern) end of the Wood, protecting the plant and animal life there.

Diamond Wood Upgrade!

Andover Trees United has plans to protect and improve biodiversity across the whole Diamond Wood over the next few years. We aim to help our visitors to access the woodland responsibly to conserve the nature that calls the wood home. The single Right of Way (RoW), the East Anton sports field/ Smannell footpath, that crosses the wood will not be affected, but there are several permissive paths that will be changing over the coming months, with new signage to help visitors to find their way. And signage is just the beginning! ATU will be working hard to transform the eastern end to create a brand new chalk grassland meadow starting next year, 2025! Spanning a 3-year project, there will be numerous community events that will inform, encourage participation and allow the community to enjoy the space. We will also be holding expert talks, community arts, fundraising, wildflower seed sowing and planting events. Look out for more information on all of this in the local press and on our website, where you can subscribe to our monthly newsletter: andovertrees.org.uk/newsletter

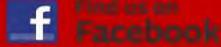


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Coffee at The George Inn
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Tuesday 14th May at 10.30am
£2.50 for coffee and biscuits - For more information contact
Win Coventry - ☎ 01264 738 199.

The Lunch Our next village lunch will be held on
Wednesday 15th May at St Mary Bourne Village Centre, as usual starting to serve at 12.30pm. All are welcome to come along and enjoy our monthly light social lunch with the suggested donation still only £3. If a lift is needed, please phone Chris Smith on ☎ 01264 738110 by Noon on the Tuesday.



If you had some financial difficulties getting through the winter, this local community fund may be

able to help. Information from: Ruth Widén, ☎ 01264 738250 - ruth.widen@btinternet.com.

Toads on the Roads 2024



We have had a confusing patrol season starting at the end of January caused by the very early warm nights persuading some of them to arrive long before usual. The main arrivals were still around their usual Valentine's Day, followed by scattered arrivals for another month.

Towards the end the pregnant females with males on their backs started to turn away from the gate on arrival which totally confused us until we realised rats had started to attack them just inside the gate. I spent a couple of days ferrying them to the water to escape the rats. Normally they have not mated by March 31st which is the date we have stopped in previous years because of the clocks changing causing much lighter evenings. We rescued 542 toads this year with 40 sadly squashed.

Many of these would have been visible and stationary in car headlights if drivers would only slow down and look at the road when they see our signs up and us out patrolling. Thank you so much to our wonderful team of 27 keen patrollers this year who did 117 hours of unpredictable volunteering between them. CH

Pentecost Celebration

Sunday 19th May at 10.30am
St Peter's Church

Lots to do: the fruit test (blindfolded), biscuit decoration, word searches, spot the difference, gifts to make, craft decorations, coffee, squash and cake, stickers and cards and some chocolate!




It's Back!
Father's Day Big Breakfast

Sunday 16th June
9am to 12pm

St Mary Bourne Village Hall

Just turn up, Everyone welcome.
Proceeds to MacMillan Cancer Support
in memory of Mike Crofts

On **June 29th** a bunch of Mike's (Mike Crofts') Marvellous Mates will be participating in a 26-mile Mighty Hike in Mike's memory. The hike is In aid of MacMillan Cancer Support And is of course in Mike's beloved Yorkshire! We are holding a big breakfast as part of our fundraising effort, so please do come along and support us. If you would like to support our fundraising by donating, you can do so by scanning the QR code.




St Mary Bourne Primary School

At St Mary Bourne School it has been a very busy time. In Forest School sessions the older children made scarecrows for the farm at Vitacress using reclaimed materials. They are now in place on the farm which is great news. Ella from Vitacress also came into the school and talked to the children about all the different species that could be found at the farm, including several animals on the red endangered list.



Another visitor to the school was Ali the Gardener who came to talk to the children about growing potatoes. She also helped children plant potatoes in preparation for the Flower Show. We are looking forward to finding out who has the biggest yield.

At the end of term, we held a music concert for parents which was a great success. The children have all made great progress since the start of term and showed super concentration when playing in front of an audience.





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It is with huge gratitude and best wishes

that we bid farewell to our outgoing President **Peter St Quintin**. Peter has been involved in the Flower Show

for more than 50 years having been recruited by



Bobby Wigram and the McClenaghans when he moved to the village. He spent many years as Chairman before becoming President upon Brenda Strong's death. Peter is an excellent gardener having spent many years creating his own garden at Swampton House as well as designing for others. He will be greatly missed and we wholeheartedly thank him. Fortunately we have another long-time supporter of the Flower Show ready to step into the role. We are delighted to announce that **Harriet Dickinson** has agreed to take on the role and will be the President designate until her formal election at the next Flower Show AGM. Harriet has been part of the flower show for over 36 years, 25yrs as Vice Chairman and 5yrs as Chairman. She is passionate that everyone should get involved in this much loved village event and that everybody should try and take part - regardless of the quality, it's the taking part that counts.

Keep on sowing - most vegetable seeds can be sown this month if you missed the opportunity in April. Sowing in the greenhouse then hardening off the young plants before planting out reduces slug attacks. Crops to sow under cover for planting out in June include French & Runner beans, courgettes, squash, and sweetcorn. Alternatively visit garden centres, supermarkets, or the Hurstbourne Priors May Fair where there is typically a large selection of vegetable plugs. Plant out Sweet Peas - keep them well watered and feed once a week. Keep mounding up soil around the stems of the seed potatoes. Sprinkle fertiliser round the base of hedges and shrubs. Put supports in for tall growing border plants. Prepare for the Chelsea Chop! Keep an eye on the weather and watch out for frost!

This month look out for free plants - seedlings that may have sprouted from your border plants that can be transplanted or potted up to give to friends or indeed the Flower show plant stall!! Think of us too when lifting and dividing clumps of congested perennials.

HELP WANTED - If you are able to spare a few hours to volunteer on either Friday evening, Saturday morning or early evening to help set up and dismantle the showground, we would be very grateful. All are welcome as there are many jobs including setting up tables and chairs and erecting tents and gazebos. We also need a generous person/s to donate some traditional straw/hay bales to use around the showground for various purposes. We normally auction them off or give them away to a deserving cause after the show but would be flexible with this if required. About 40 to 50 bales are needed.

ARE YOU A LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS?

If you run a small business locally and are interested in having a stall at the show then please get in touch with us. For more details please contact **Mark on 07968 721998** or **Richard on 07780 995275** message/WhatsApp.



Well, deep breath and here we go!

As Lara mentioned in last month's Hill & Valley she has always loved Spring; I too have always loved it because it promises long summer days to come, better weather and the excitement that those things bring. This Spring has brought different emotions for me; of course the normal excitement I feel every Spring is now slightly tinged with nervousness and trepidation and that is because of my new position at The Boundary!

Excitement at being offered the chance to manage the Café running alongside the awareness of the big shoes I must fill - Lara has certainly set the bar high!

I have lots of things spinning in my head right now; new ideas, yet always being aware of the solid Business Principles Lara has put in place. I am pleased to announce we will be launching our new Summer Menu on June 1st - obviously the old favourites will stay but we are introducing home-made sandwiches and scones with cream & jam. Children's lunchboxes will also be added.

I want to be approachable, so never be afraid to talk to me with your ideas and suggestions!

Enough about me - Vic will be taking over the reins of the Post Office and Shop and agrees that she too has big shoes to fill! She intends to keep the Shop full of fresh Fruit & Veg, Milk, Bread and all the other goodies and treats you are familiar with! We both intend to keep the Shop & Café the lovely community hub it is... You will always be welcome to come in for a chat, a cup of coffee, and a shop!

Sandra

'The Film' at St Mary Bourne Village Centre



WICKED LITTLE LETTERS

15 • 1 h 40 m

When Edith and fellow residents begin to receive wicked letters full of hilarious profanities, foul-mouthed Rose is charged with the crime. However, as the town's women investigate the crime themselves, they suspect that something is amiss, and that Rose may not be the culprit after all.

Tuesday 21st May 2024 - 7.15pm

Hall and Licensed Bar open from 6.45pm

Tickets **£5** in advance or **£7** at the door

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Next Film: 18th June 2024 - BOB MARLEY *ONE LOVE*

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News and Views

Parish Council Activities

At the parish council meeting held on April 9th, a policy for the occasional use of the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) on the edge of the Recreation Ground for

parking was agreed by councillors. Details will be published and are available from the clerk at clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk.

In addition, the Recreation Ground Working Group has met and will be liaising with those who have been working to improve the play area facilities, and other regular users, to try to ensure the most effective use of the Recreation Ground space and car park for the benefit of the whole community. Of course, there is no immediate fix for this so it will take time and careful planning.

Meanwhile, with the confirmation of change of use for the **Pavilion** noted last month, the Council have agreed in principle to extend the lease of Ninny's nursery for up to two years, subject to a new lease more appropriate to this use.

The **Flood and Emergency Group** continue their dialogue with Southern Water but so far have not received an update on the Infiltration Reduction Plan referred to last month. After February and March rainfall, tankering in the village seems likely to continue over the spring months.

Annual Parish Assembly

This will take place in the Village Centre on **Tuesday 7th May at 7.30pm** and it is the annual opportunity to hear reports from and meet your council and representatives of other organisations from within our community.

Refreshments will be provided, do please come if you can.

Planning:

24/00494/HSE	Ringlands, SMB	<i>Extension</i>
24/00562/HSE	The Cottage, Bourne Court, SMB	<i>Extension</i>
24/00602/AGPD	Priors Park, Stoke	<i>AGPD</i>
24/00576/HSE	Jasmine Cottage, Stoke	<i>Alteration</i>
T/00153/24/TCA	Hill House, Springhill Lane, SMB	<i>Work on trees</i>
T/00168/24/TCA	4 Springhill, SMB	<i>Work on trees</i>

Copies of minutes are available on the parish council website and notice boards. Please email any questions or agenda points to the clerk, Maxine Owen on clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk.

Please follow / like our facebook page so more people are aware that it exists – and we can continue to update all more frequently – www.facebook.com/SMB.PCpage

Next parish council meeting:

Tuesday 14th May - 19.30

Village Centre Club Room - Public more than welcome



St Mary Bourne Bowling Club was established in 1931. We moved to our present location behind the tennis court in 2000. We are tucked away behind the hedge but can be reached via the small gate by the banner that is hanging on the hedge.

The club prides itself on being one of the friendliest and welcoming in

Hampshire. We have a top-class playing surface that has been looked after by a local resident for almost 30 years. The club competes in three local midweek leagues as well as Hampshire wide tournaments. At weekends we play regular friendly matches both home and away against other clubs in the surrounding area. We have several internal competitions for bowlers of all abilities to enter that run through the season. Qualified coaching is available free of charge to any member who would like to improve their game.

Every Tuesday evening throughout the late spring, summer and early autumn is club night, which is very well attended and always a great deal of fun. We also have a comfortable clubhouse with modern facilities that includes a well-stocked bar. These are open to club members and local residents to enjoy. This year our season begins on **Saturday 20th April**.

Every season we have an **Open Day**. This year it will take place on **Saturday 25th May** in conjunction with the Big Bowls Weekend, a nationwide initiative from Bowls England. From 11 o'clock until 3 o'clock we will be opening our gates to welcome everybody who would like to find out more about the club and the sport of lawn bowls. No equipment is needed, everything you need to have a go will be provided. Just wear flat shoes and be prepared to have a good time.

St Mary Bourne Bowls Club would like to invite Hill & Valley readers plus their friends, family, colleagues and neighbours to come along on the Open Day to try the sport. If you cannot make it that day, then feel free to come along on a Tuesday evening from the 23rd of April onwards where you'll be sure to receive a warm welcome. Alternatively, if you'd just like to sample the atmosphere and relax in the most idyllic of surroundings then do, please pop in and take a seat. If someone is playing, the gates are always open.

We look forward to welcoming you in the future.

Should you want any further information then please check our website:

<https://www.stmarybournebowlsclub.co.uk/>

or email: secsmbbc@yahoo.com.



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Postcard from Binley

The dawn chorus this morning at 5.30 was so intense it drowned out the sound of the rookery. I just had to throw open the bedroom window and drink it all in. Light overnight rain had fallen on recently unfurled leaves that were a verdant, iridescent green. The scent was intoxicating! A gentle southern breeze carried with it the soft bleating of lambs on the downs and above me kites set off from their roosts in the park. Spring in Binley.

How magical! With bed hair like the Nutty Professor and scratching my backside I went downstairs to put the kettle on as another day in Paradise began. I was pleased to see on local social media that many people are spotting trout as they walk along the banks of the Bourne. With a head of water like this they should be spread right up the valley maybe as far as Hurstbourne Tarrant; I've certainly seen them there before. I don't know if any effluent is being pumped into our little stream, I do hope not. I do know there are grave concerns around Chilbolton I think. Surely, we cannot go on like this. Interestingly apart from the odd eel the only fish I have ever spotted here are trout, not even a Grayling

makes its way up here. But there must be Miller's Thumb, Brook Lamprey, minnows



even? Salmon used to get up as high as Longparish, and many years ago I saw a couple of fish on what they call the half water. They were carrying some disease I recall. Brian Hague, the Landlord of the White Hart in Stoke famously landed a salmon just below the bridge by the pub some years ago. If you don't believe me the photograph of fish and angler are behind the bar.

So there! Last week I was introduced to a pair of Patterdale terriers. I should correct myself, a pair of Patterdale terriers were introduced to me! Anyone who is familiar with this breed and values a full set of eight fingers will know not to be presumptuous. Their names were Gerald and Norman and I know this because they were painted on the back of the old oak lambing chairs they were sitting on by a smouldering open fire. I was at a large rambling old house in Itchen Abbas, purely a commercial visit. The house was completely covered in scaffolding. Not as I initially thought part of an extensive renovation project but there simply, so the old place didn't fall down! The owner, an ample woman in multiple layers of clothing with a designer baler twine belt was posher than the dear departed old Queen and fouler mouthed than that awful chef Ramsay. On her head sat a wide brimmed khaki hat that I last saw on John Mills head in "Ice cold in Alex!" Pouring us both a gin at 10.30am my first thoughts were "Here's a woman I can get on with"! Mountains of paperwork were piled up on every available surface and a kind of made-up bed of sorts was by the fire. I got the feeling that this was the only liveable room in the entire place. I thought back to the wonderful lady that lived at Pill Heath on the way to Tangley all those years ago. I can't remember her name or why she lived in a shed at the back and not the house, but I think she was making a stand against Maggie's poll tax? Anyway, the whole point of this story is to alert you to the fact that there is virtually a "National Day" for just about every cause imaginable? How about one to celebrate these magnificent old dames? They won't be around for ever! NA



Grayling: The Lady of the Stream

If I asked you to name a chalk stream fish, which one would you choose? For many, the brown trout or Atlantic salmon



Photo: Paul Colley

will come to mind – the most famous fishy mascots of these rare freshwater habitats. But today we're looking at another amazing member of the salmonid family: the **European Grayling**. Or, to use its wonderfully romantic nickname, the 'Lady of the Stream'.

The grayling belongs to the genus *Thymallus* – so named because its members exude a faint scent of thyme. Although widespread across Europe and native to England, this fish was not originally found in the Test and Itchen. Records suggest that it was introduced to these rivers in the early 19th and 20th centuries respectively, possibly by moving fish from the Hampshire Avon.

Ironically, grayling would later be routinely culled in many southern chalk streams, due to fears of them out-competing brown trout. This practice declined as studies showed key differences in the diet, growth, habitat, and spawning behaviour of the two species. Today, grayling are particularly popular with anglers, as they can be pursued in the winter when brown trout are prohibited.

The grayling can be recognised by its glittering pewter scales and red-fringed dorsal fin. This ruby colour is much brighter in the males, especially during the breeding season. From March to May each year, they attempt to woo females with a vibrating dance. Fertilised eggs are nestled in the gravelly stream bed and – if all goes well – two to four weeks later, the water is filled with baby grayling!

After hatching, juveniles stick to the slower-flowing stream margins until they get large enough to swim further out. As they grow, their diet expands to include worms, insect larvae, and small crustaceans like freshwater shrimp. Grayling can gain twice the weight that trout and salmon manage in their first year but end up a little smaller – the largest adults weigh around two kilograms.

Grayling need cool, clean, oxygen-rich water, in addition to areas of silt-free gravel for spawning. If their homes aren't healthy, then sadly they can struggle to thrive. To learn how the Watercress and Winterbournes scheme is helping grayling, brown trout, and other chalk stream species, visit hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes. Our work is made possible by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Free Events:

'The Role of the River Keeper'

Often responsible for habitat management in fisheries, river keepers can play a crucial role in protecting our precious chalk streams. Online on 14th May at 7pm.

'Tales from the Riverbank Literature Festival'

Join us in Andover, Whitchurch, Overton, and Alresford this June. Hear from amazing nature authors and get creative with writing workshops for children and adults.

Book your tickets at hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes.



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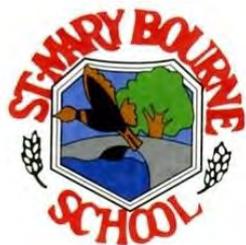


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Saving The Earth

Thoughts from SMB School

Year 2 & 3 used some artefacts from Uganda to open a discussion about caring for the Earth. They looked at Helen Ward's tale of The Tin Forest in which an old man

tidies the rubbish in a junkyard and dreams of a better place. With faith, ingenuity and hard work, he transforms it into a wonderland in this poetic modern fable. This is a book which for Silver Birch class, provided a starting point for a wealth of writing.

Here is a compilation of what Flossie and Bella have written:

"I'm here to tell you about how to save the earth. First, I need to let you know that you, yes you, are harming and potentially killing animals. How? The answer's simple; you're not reusing and recycling. Did you know that when you're an adult, some cute animals like hedgehogs could be extinct and you will only have yourself to blame. I'm sure you don't want this to happen, so please, please, please start reusing and recycling.

Do you like arts and crafts? Are you good at it? If so, you'll be perfect for the job of reusing. All you have to do is get a tin can and a cardboard box for example, and with some paint and some glue or tape you can make a beautiful top hat. Why don't you make your mum a funky necklace or something? She's sure to like that. Are your drawers or desk messy at home? No one likes that. If you made a pencil case out of some old fabric then it won't take you hours to tidy it up. How cool is that?

Have you ever thought about giving your old toys and clothes away? You can even sell some stuff on ebay. But make sure you check that it's ok with an adult first.

Do you know what happens to rubbish when you're done with it? Well, it certainly doesn't vanish into thin air. It goes into land fill which is mountains and mountains of rubbish piled on top of each other and garbage patches which are the same but in the sea. You do not want to be an animal that lives near one of these, believe me. They cause so much pollution to the air, earth and sea.

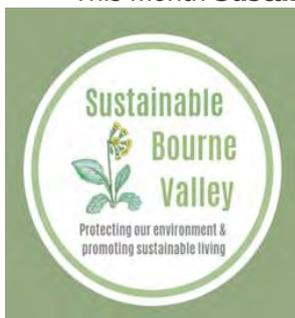


Thank you so much for listening to my speech I hope it has inspired you to help me save the world and make your mum a funky necklace. Have fun recycling and reusing rubbish. Bye

Did you know you can make lots of things out of rubbish like footballs, pencil cases and necklaces? You can make a big difference by reusing, recycling and reducing. Surely now you will help the environment and nature. Do it for the world. Don't forget to reduce, recycle and reuse.

Thank you

This month **Sustainable Bourne Valley** is supporting Plant life and their 'No Mow May' Movement.



Why do we need 'No Mow May'?

We've lost approximately **97%** of flower-rich meadows since the 1930's and with them gone are vital food needed by pollinators, like bees and butterflies.

But your lawn can help! A healthy lawn with some long grass and wildflowers benefits wildlife, tackles pollution and can even lock away carbon below ground.

With over **20 million gardens in the UK**, even the **smallest grassy patches add up** to a significant proportion of our land which, if managed properly, can deliver **enormous gains for nature**, communities, and the climate. This is why plant life calls for people to get involved with **NoMowMay** every year, and let wild plants get a head start on the summer. Best of all, to reap these benefits all you must do is not mow your lawn in May and beyond! You can visit their website for more information at:

<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/>.

Also on 20th of May is **World Bee Day**, so taking part in No Mow May will be of massive benefit to these wonderful pollinators. So, if you have no lawn, or would rather not take part, then here are a few plants that you can plant in your garden that the bees love and that you can enjoy too. **Hellebores, Salvias, Echinacia, Rudbeckia laciniata, Lavandula, Snowdrops, Crocus, Cosmos, Sedum, Verbena.**

One-Place Study

Julie Muirhead, has connections with St Mary Bourne that go back to the 1600s, and has in the past shared her research on:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/StMaryBourneHistory> which she runs.

Julie, who is currently studying with the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, has set up st mary bourne **one-place study**:
<https://stmarybourne-ops.co.uk/> with the intention of initially delving into the period 1821-1841. This research is ongoing and will eventually expand into more recent times. Julie would love to hear from anyone interested in this project and is always on the lookout for old photographs, documents and other information that will help to tell the story of the parish.

Contact: julzfamilytree@gmail.com or 07758 955897.

The Boundary Community Shop & Café - 1☺☺ Club

April 2024 draw:

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£20 - Serena Coulton **£10** - Pat France

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Remembering...

Melanie Nixon

23rd August 1942 – 10th March 2024

Melanie was born on Sunday 23rd August 1942 in Edgware, Brent, London. She was the first child and eldest daughter of Irene and Gordon Darwood. Jean and John (twins) followed in 1944, then Barbara and finally Brian, a family of five children.

During her early childhood, Melanie went to live with her grandparents in Dorset for six weeks with whom she formed a strong bond. Her enjoyment of company, good food and entertaining, and smart stylish clothes may perhaps be attributed to this early influence on her. She maintained high standards throughout her life.



After leaving school and training as a shorthand/typist, Melanie married Bobby Nixon and they had two sons, Robert and Richard. Her talents were fully developed when she and Bobby started working for the American direct-selling company Tupperware in the 1970's. Melanie started as a Party hostess, progressed to be a manager, and subsequently became the Tupperware distributor for South East London in charge of a huge operation involving over 300 dealers and 24 managers whilst Bobby fully supported her by running the Storage and Distribution network.

Melanie & Bobby retired from Tupperware in the early 1980s and moved to Field House, south of Newbury. She then put her business skills and outgoing personality to good use by selling freehold properties in some of the most beautiful resorts in Spain, France, Portugal and North America. She also became actively involved in her son Robert's property development business in Turkey.

In 1998, Melanie moved from Newbury to Norfolk where she ran a successful 5-star B&B establishment. Unfortunately, she was diagnosed with cancer in 2002. Over the years, Melanie underwent a series of different treatments. She put all her intelligence and determination into supporting new drug trials, alternative remedies and diets. These resulted in long periods of remission which she embraced with optimism whilst actively taking part in and enjoying social and community activities. Melanie was supported at all times by an underlying belief in Christian spirituality and a positive attitude to getting things done and helping others.

She moved from Norfolk to her beloved home, Snowdrops in Stoke in 2011 where she soon became involved in village life. She was a helper and soup cook for the monthly Lunch Club; she joined the Walk4Health walking group; set up a Ladies social group (the Phoenix Club); and was a stalwart supporter of the Stoke Village Fund masterminding the Apple Juice project and pioneering the Phonebox Library. She also ran *Snowdrops* as a successful B&B, found time to pursue her great love of gardening (which included growing wonderful dahlias for local church decorations), and was

a generous hospitable host to friends and family visitors. During this time, her Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma returned, but fortunately she was referred to Professor Peter Johnson of Southampton Hospital, the UK's leading expert in this cancer. His care and treatment enabled Melanie to enjoy many extra years of quality life and Melanie recognised this with a substantial legacy to support research into Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma.

Unfortunately, after falling and breaking a leg in October last year, Melanie's health took a downward turn. She spent eight weeks in East Surrey hospital and it was subsequently discovered that the lymphoma had returned.

The family are so grateful for the care that Melanie received from Dr Lickman at the local medical practice and from all the staff at The Countess of Brecknock Hospice, including the provision of at-home nursing care which enabled Melanie to have a peaceful and pain-free passing on 10th March.

Her life was celebrated with a special Service in St Peter's, St Mary Bourne, superbly led by Rev'd Canon Dodie. Two Eulogies were shared together with a large screen video showing many photos of Melanie's five grandchildren whom she adored and her many friends.

CHORUS ANGELORUM

MUSIC FOR UPPER VOICES



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ST JAMES'S CHURCH, WOODCOTT

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MARIANA@UPPERWOODCOTT.CO.UK

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Stoke Plant Sale

Saturday 25th May
2 - 4pm

Winterbourne Cottage Greenhouse
SP11 ONP

Any plant donations
greatly appreciated

LONGPARISH

- 11 2 to 5pm - Spring Tidy - Playpark
 12 9am - L2SOTM Race - Cricket Ground
 19 8am to 12 noon - The Longparish Run -
 Longparish Primary School
 31 12 noon to 2pm - Friday Lunch Club - Village Hall

HURSTBOURNE PRIORS

- 6 12 noon to 4pm - **May Fair** - Recreation Ground
 22 10.15 to 12 noon - Ladies Coffee Morning, The Long House
 23 June 2.30 to 5.30pm - Midsummer Fun Day

ST MARY BOURNE & WOODCOTT

- 4 10am to 12 noon - Repair Café - The George Inn
 7 7.30pm - **Annual Parish Assembly** - Village Centre Main Hall
 14 10.30am - Coffee at The George Inn
 14 7.30pm - Annual Parish Council meeting - Village Centre Club Room
 15 12.30pm - 'The Lunch' - Village Centre Main Hall
 21 7.15pm - 'The Film' - '**Wicked Little Letters**' - Village Centre Main Hall
 25 11am to 3pm - Bowls Club Open Day - Bowling Green
 25 2 to 4pm - Stoke Plant Sale - Winterbourne Cottage

Bourne fest

- 7 June Bar • Live Music • Street Food • BBQ • Kids Movie Night
 8 June BBQ Breakfast • Sports Day • Children's Tent • D Day Lunch & Tea Dance
 • Live Music • Bowls Bar • Food Trucks • BBQ
 9 June Family Fun Run • BBQ Breakfast • Football Tournament • Village Teas
 • Tennis Tournament • Open Gardens BBQ • Mimosa Tent • Bar • Wrap Party

Saturday mornings - 10.30am to 12.30pm - **The Community Library**
 - Village Centre Club Room

Front cover photo: Michael Widén

Hurstbourne Priors **Village Hall**: Mrs Helen Ford, ☎ 07789 691018, e: helenford62@hotmail.co.uk
 Longparish **Village Hall**: Mrs Maggie Barber, ☎ 01264 720459, e: villagehall@longparish.org.uk
 Longparish **Community Hall**: During school open hours, Mrs Christine Leach ☎ 01264 720317
 St Mary Bourne **Village Centre**: Miss Angela Cook, ☎ 01264 738158, e:

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Your contributions - letters, pictures, comments or articles are always welcome. Contact your parish editor by the copy date.
 Please provide copy in Word format and attached images as jpg files.

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Andover Riding for the Disabled

Charity walk

SUNDAY 23 JUNE

10 am start

📍 St.Mary Bourne village hall, SP11 6BE

Enjoy lovely countryside with family and friends while helping disabled riders.



The circular walk is approximately **5 miles**, please visit our website for further information and to register.

www.andover-rda.org.uk

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